

To Approve

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 26, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1.0 OPENING ITEMS.

1.1 Call to Order. Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., called the special meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Newport Public Schools' Administration Center, in room 924.

1.2 Roll Call. Attendance was as follows: **School Committee Members:** Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., Vice Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines, Rebecca Bolan, Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., Robert J. Leary (absent), Thomas S. Phelan, and Robert B. Power, Ed.D.; and **School Department:** Superintendent of Schools Colleen B. Jermain and Director of Administrative Services Joan Tracey.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2.0 RESOLUTION.

2.1 Resolution. Dr. Flowers moved to table the Resolution to the September 16, 2014 regularly scheduled school committee meeting. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

3.1 Approval of Minutes.

3.2 Personnel Actions.

Vice Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines made a motion to accept the consent to the approval of the minutes (May 13, 20, and 22, 2014) and personnel actions (following on page 2), as presented. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS/RECALLS

APPOINTMENT

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|--------------------|---|-------------|
| Brooke Anderson | Science Teacher – Summer Session at Rogers High School | 6/26/2014 |
| Elizabeth Copley | Science Teacher – Summer Session at Rogers High School | 6/26/2014 |
| Scott Dickison | Science Teacher – Summer Session at Rogers High School | 6/26/2014 |
| Anthony Hanos | Math Teacher – Summer Session at Rogers High School | 6/26/2014 |
| Patrick Largy | English Teacher – Summer Session at Rogers High School | 6/26/2014 |
| Andrew Martucci | Physical Education Teacher – Summer Session at Rogers High School | 6/26/2014 |
| Nancy Noonan | English Teacher – Summer Session at Rogers High School | 6/26/2014 |
| Rebecca Capece | Summer Team School Psychologist | 6/26/2014 |
| Nichole Cardoza | Summer Team General Educator | 6/26/2014 |
| Colleen Crotteau | Summer ESL Screener | 6/26/2014 |
| Cheryl DeMenezes | Summer Team Speech Language Therapist | 6/26/2014 |
| Nancy Leary | Summer Team Educational Diagnostician | 6/26/2014 |
| Mary Sheehan | Summer Team School Social Worker | 6/26/2014 |
| Alaina Behbehani | ESY Elementary School Special Educator | 6/26/2014 |
| Jamie Berdy | ESY Middle School Special Educator @ Salve Regina University | 6/26/2014 |
| Jamie Butterworth | ESY High School Special Educator | 6/26/2014 |
| Christine Davis | ESY Speech Language Therapist | 6/26/2014 |
| Alison Gonteiro | ESY Elementary School Special Educator | 6/26/2014 |
| Christine Korney | ESY Elementary School Special Educator | 6/26/2014 |
| Carolyn Martin | ESY School Nurse Teacher | 6/26/2014 |
| Janice Masciarelli | ESY Early Childhood Special Educator | 6/26/2014 |
| Kerri Smith | ESY and Summer Team Occupational Therapist | 6/26/2014 |
| Marybeth Vierra | ESY High School Special Educator | 6/26/2014 |
| John Pastore | Boys Head Soccer Coach – Rogers High School | 6/26/2014 |

RESIGNATION

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|-----------------|--|-------------|
| Kristen Sanborn | Assistant Boys & Girls Swim Coach – Rogers High School | 06/18/2014 |
| Katelyn Zerba | Para Educator – Pell Elementary School | 06/26/2014 |
| Emily Zilly | Assistant Girls Basketball Coach – Rogers High School | 06/17/2014 |

RETIREMENT

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Gary Michael | Carpenter | 06/25/2014 |

4.0 ACTION ITEMS.

- 4.1 School Budget 2013-2014.** After considerable review and discussion of the district's current year's revenues and expenditures, Director of Administrative Services Joan Tracey stated that, with a current deficit of \$205,965 as the fiscal year comes to a close, the figure could increase as the final accounting takes place. Superintendent Jermain stated that last evening she had requested the council to consider absorbing the district's current year of non-recurring expenses, totaling \$260,918. Should the council agree, she stated the district's deficit could possibly be eliminated. Ms. Tracey requested the school committee entertain a

motion to balance this fiscal year's budget. Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept recommendations requested by the district to balance the 2013-2014 school budget. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

- 4.2 Cell Tower—RFP Award.** Dr. Power made a motion to accept the Cell Tower Lease RFP of T-Mobile as the base bid of \$29,000 per year with a three percent annual escalation, as presented, subject to entering into a lease which is satisfactory to school committee legal counsel. Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

- 4.3 To Receive Finance Review Committee Report to the Newport City Council.** Dr. Power made a motion to receive the Finance Review Committee Report to the Newport City Council, with commendation. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion. Discussion followed as to the outstanding value of the report. Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines commended the Review Committee for their comprehensive due diligence in the development of this report. Committee members concurred. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

5.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS.

- 5.1 Status Quo Budget.** Discussion followed.
- 5.2 Priority One Budget.** Discussion followed.
- 5.3 Triplett School Building.** Superintendent Jermain indicated that approximately \$80,000 would need to be added into the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget to keep possession of the Triplett School building. Discussion followed regarding keeping possession of the building or turning it over to the city. The committee decided to wait for feasibility report before relinquishing the building.

2014-2015 School Budget—

Review and discussion followed regarding status quo budget, priority one budget, and Triplett School building. Review followed of the Uniform Chart of Accounts for Newport and comparison districts.

The city council did approve to cover the \$101,130 for the principal owed on boilers at Rogers High School and another \$23,840 for the interest for the fiscal year 2014-2015. Ms. Tracey stated that the council provided the district with the following relief in the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget—\$418,000 budget increase, \$375,000 capital improvement expenses, and \$125,000 in costs at Rogers High School associated with the lease of the boiler. This total of approximately \$918,000 in budget relief is close to the district's request to the city for additional monies needed for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Superintendent Jermain stated that the district still faces at least a \$1 million deficit in the 2014-2015 fiscal year that must be addressed. The school committee agreed that it must meet within 30 days with recommendations on how to balance the 2014-2015 school budget. Committee members stated that they would be available to meet preferably on Wednesdays prior to 4 p.m. during the month of July.

Relative to ideas for decreasing the potential projected deficit for the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget, the following request for waivers were approved:

- Ms. Bolan made a motion to request a waiver as to whether or not the district could exempt a student from taking gym class should that student be enrolled in a varsity sport, but expected to still be enrolled in health class. Dr. Power seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0);
- Dr. Power made a motion to request a waiver as to whether or not the district could exempt a student from taking gym class should that student be enrolled in the ROTC Program. Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0); and
- Dr. Power made a motion to request a waiver as to whether or not the district could exempt bus monitors for middle school student bus transportation. Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

School committee members agreed to allow Superintendent Jermain to move forward with additional waivers, as may be identified.

6.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION.

At 8:17 p.m., Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to go into Executive Session under jurisdiction of Rhode Island State Law, Chapter 46, 42-46-5 – Exceptions (a)(1) Personal Matters, and the person or persons affected have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held in an open session; and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation. Dr. Power seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SEALED MINUTES—CONFIDENTIAL

OPEN SESSION

At 8:29 p.m., Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to reconvene the meeting in open session. Dr. Power seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

7.0 ADJOURNMENT.

At 8:30 p.m., Mr. Phelan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.
Chairperson

Colleen B. Jermain
Clerk